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Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child
Sixty-eighth session
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Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Consideration of reports of States parties

List of issues in relation to the combined third to fifth periodic reports of Mauritius

Addendum

Replies of Mauritius to the list of issues*

[Date received: 3 November 2014]

Part I

1. **Please clarify to what extent the "Working Together" framework has improved coordination between the different government departments and institutions at all levels and indicate whether the State party envisages establishing a high-level coordination mechanism with a view to ensure adequate coordination of the implementation of the Convention. Please also assess the impact of the Human Rights Monitoring Committee under the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare on the enjoyment of child rights.**

1. The "Working Together" concept provides for bringing in together all stakeholders in children matters and promotes discourse on holistic child policy matters. It also provides a forum for the elaboration of Memoranda of Understanding regarding means and ways to collaborate in the handling of child abuse in an efficient and effective manner.

2. Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) have been signed between the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare and 8 stakeholders forming part of the "Working Together" Committee; namely:

(i) Prime Minister's Office (Civil Status Division);

(ii) Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands;

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

(iii) Ministry of Education and Human Resources;

(iv) Ministry of Youth and Sports;

(v) Attorney General's Office;

(vi) Ministry of Health and Quality of Life;

(vii) Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment; and

(viii) National Children's Council.

3. Signature of the MOUs with the following three stakeholders will be made this year:

(i) Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions;

(ii) Police Department; and

(iii) Ministry of Tourism and Leisure.

4. The development and signature of the MOUs by various Ministries bear testimony to the firm commitment of the latter to adopt a multi-sectoral approach to improve service delivery to children victims of violence.

5. The meetings which are held provide the appropriate platform for parties' concerned; there are reviews of procedures regarding actions taken to sort out distress of children referred to the different institutions ranging from the Child Protection Services, Schools, Hospitals, Police stations, Social Security Offices, amongst others. These reviews of procedures are to ensure that there is no fragmentation in service delivery; the Rights of children are safeguarded and are attended to expeditiously and in a child-friendly manner.

6. The "Working Together" Committee provides a platform for ongoing Capacity Building of stakeholders, sharing of best practices as well as reinforcing and developing a Child Rights/Child Centred mind set and culture in Organisations.

7. The "Working Together" Committee is being captured and restyled as the High Level Coordinating mechanism in the forthcoming Children's Bill.

8. As such, the "Working Together" Committee/High Level Coordinating panel is to ensure that the clarification and redefinition of roles of all stakeholders are enforced, so that each stakeholder reckons with its line of responsibility and accountability.

9. The National Human Rights Monitoring Committee is not under the aegis of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare but has been set up under the Prime Minister's Office. Meetings are held at regular intervals to monitor progress achieved on the recommendations of the Human Rights Action Plan including Rights of the Child by the relevant Ministry.

2. Please clarify to what extent the measures taken in the context of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2012–2020 have contributed to the implementation of all provisions of the Convention, and describe the progress achieved so far through the implementation of the Action Plan.

10. The recommendations related to the Convention in the Human Rights Action Plan are as follows:

- A Children's Bill to consolidate the various pieces of legislation covering all aspects of child rights. The Bill is in the process of being finalised at the level of the Attorney General's Office;
- A National Child Protection Strategy and Action Plan has been prepared by an international Consultant with assistance from the European Union;

- Preventive measures to combat child abuse have been strengthened through the Community Child Protection Programme, that is, the District Child Protection Committees (DCPCs) and Community Child Watch Committees (CCWCs). There are 32 CCWCs currently operating across the island that report cases of violence against children, create awareness and encourage community action and 9 DCPCs which act as a mediator between the community and the main institutions providing services for children. Since 2011 to date, 6830 children and 1212 adults have been reached through activities of DCPCs and CCWCs geared towards prevention of child violence;
- Since 2011 to date, 782 parents have benefitted from parental empowerment sessions organized to better equip them with appropriate parenting skills to cope with problems arising during the different developmental stages of their children;
- The National Children's Council has also conducted various activities with children with the view to sensitising them on child protection issues. Since 2012 to date, there have been 12,120 children reached through Children's Clubs and 19352 children were reached through creativity development programmes;
- The public awareness/sensitization campaign is maintained with a view to better sensitizing the community on the dangers of drugs and commercial sexual exploitation of children. Anti-Drug Support Unit (ADSU) and the Crime Prevention Unit have intensified its awareness campaign in collaboration with the community, schools and other NGOs as follows:

	No. of sessions held in Primary & Secondary Schools		*No. of Students*	
Year	*ADSU*	*Crime Prevention Unit*	*ADSU*	*Crime Prevention Unit*
2012	121	318	17790	21072
2013	75	327	14192	18838
2014 (as at 08.09.14)	105	309	18614	14691
Total	**552**	**1488**	**110430**	**92175**

11. The Ministry of Education and Human Resources assists in the integration of children with disabilities and provides several facilities:

(a) A scholarship scheme to encourage children with disabilities to pursue secondary and tertiary studies;

(b) Refund of bus fares to parents accompanying disabled children to school and refund of taxi fares to severely disabled students attending University; and

(c) Provision of large print and Braille facilities to blind children integrated in mainstream institutions.

12. Regarding the recommendation on the reform of the juvenile justice system, a draft Juvenile Justice Bill is currently under preparation. It is expected that this Bill will contain provisions for mediation between interested parties with a view to exploring diversionary measures as an alternative to prosecution of child offenders and for the filing of a probation report before sentencing of a juvenile offender.

13. It is to be noted that the Probation and Aftercare Service rehabilitates offenders in the community (probationers and offenders subjected to Community Service Order) and in semi-open institutions (Hostel and Home) and NOT in closed institutions.

14. Human Rights courses are being organized for young people between 16 and 18 years in collaboration with Prime Minister's Office in all the 25 Youth Centres.

15. Officers of the Youth Cadre have all followed an intensive course on Human Rights and Citizenship, organized with the collaboration of Prime Minister's Office.

3. **Please indicate what measures, if any, have been taken to strengthen the independence of the Ombudsperson for Children's Office (OCO) and to provide it with adequate human and financial resources, including qualified and trained staff to allow for its effective operation. Please also clarify the steps taken to enable OCO to enhance its awareness-raising campaigns on children's rights, to monitor the implementation of the Convention including by investigating children complaints and to systematically engage in the review of any laws and policies pertaining to children. Please indicate to what extent children are aware of the mandate of OCO and have effective access thereto.**

16. In line with Ombudsperson for Children's Act 2003, Ombudsperson for Children's Office (OCO) is a statutory and independent body and the Ombudsperson for Children has presently adequate powers and independence in her tenure of Office and capacity.

17. The Ombudsperson for Children has a quasi-jurisdictional power. She receives complaints, summons witnesses, calls for documents and can compel witnesses to answer questions. She does not adopt an adversarial approach.

18. Staff has participated in the following: Training Course on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Seminar at Equal Opportunities Commission, Roundtable discussion on the Establishment of Ombudsperson for Children for South Africa, Early Childhood Care and Education Authority(ECCEA) "Early Years Teacher's Forum", Formation on "Audition des enfants victimes d'abus sexuels", "Strengthening Partnership to address child sexual abuse and teenage pregnancy in the community at Mauritius Family Planning and Welfare Association(MFPWA), "Les droits de l'enfant au coeur de l'action des médiateurs" in Morocco. Between December 2013 and July 2014, two Investigators have proceeded on overseas training for exposure on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

19. As regards financial resources, the budget has increased by nearly 10%. Since 2011, four investigators have been appointed.

20. There have been, amongst others, two breakthrough activities to mark the 10th Anniversary of the OCO on the 10th of December 2013. The Office organised a Children's Advocacy Platform. 75 children from different NGOs participated in the activity and a stamp dedicated to children has also been issued, Mauritius is the 273rd country to have issued such a stamp.

21. From July 2013 to June 2014, the OCO organized 14 workshops for students to sensitize them on the 3R's: Rights, Responsibilities and Respect. Students from different institutions worked together and were satisfied with the procedures adopted. The problems of corporal punishment in schools were discussed with the directors of the educational zones. At the request of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, officers of the OCO had a working session on positive discipline with the headmasters.

22. The OCO participated in the human rights campaign organized under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office. The target groups were mainly NGOs and voluntary social workers.

23. A workshop was conducted by the OCO for 484 students from Form III and Pre-Vocational students. Training sessions have also been organised for Headmasters, Deputy Headmasters, Zone d'éducation prioritaire (ZEP) Clusters Coordinators and Parent

Mediators, Pre-Primary teachers, Carers - SOS Children's Village, ECCEA on the role and mandate of the OCO as well as sensitisation programmes on Radio and TV on topics such as Right to Leisure.

24. The OCO carried out a survey on awareness of the role of OCO and the Convention in Mauritius, Rodrigues and Agalega. Following results, the OCO proposed to set up a children's committee to seek children's views regarding the best mode to communicate with them so as to reach as maximum children as possible.

- All officers working in RYC/CYC should receive proper training;
- Set up a halfway home policy, not only for orphans but for all children who are released so that they may re-integrate society;
- Isolation/solitary confinement should be prohibited;
- Both RYCs and the CYC should have full-time psychologists to work with the inmates.

25. As regards policies and programmes for Rodrigues and Agalega, the OCO has, amongst others, submitted a set of policies to be implemented by the authorities concerned. The Annual Report highlights "in extenso" the implementation of such policies.

4. Please provide information on the current status of a draft Children's Bill, taking into account the Committee's previous recommendation (CRC/C/MUS/CO/2, para. 11), and explain the reasons for the delay in its adoption. Please also indicate whether the draft Bill will include all principles and provisions of the Convention and whether it will cover respect for children's rights by all actors, including the business sector.

26. The draft Children's Bill is at the stage of finalization. Policy decisions, including the issue of prohibition of corporal punishment of children, have been taken on board. The draft Bill now proposes a provision prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings.

27. The draft Children's Bill is expected to incorporate the spirit of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and include all the main principles and obligations under the Convention. However, with regard to Articles 37 and 40 of the Convention, the issues relating to juvenile justice shall be dealt with more comprehensively in the draft Juvenile Justice Bill.

28. Regarding the issue of respect for children's rights by all actors, there is a provision in the draft Children's Bill which sets out the principle that where any action is done or decision is taken (by anyone), in a matter which concerns a child, the person acting or taking the decision shall respect, protect, and promote the rights and the best interests of the child, respect the inherent dignity of the child, treat the child fairly and equitably, protect the child from discrimination, bear in mind the needs of the child for his development including any special needs of the child which may be due to disability, where appropriate, give a family member an opportunity to express his views, act promptly (as far as possible), and where appropriate inform the child of the outcome of such act or decision.

29. This process is a complex one that involves a series of consultations with various stakeholders.

5. **Please provide updated information on the training programmes organized for judges, lawyers, law enforcement officials, personnel working in institutions and places of detention, teachers and other professions working with children in various parts of the country between 2011 and 2013. Please indicate whether the Convention on the Rights of the Child has been integrated in the teacher-training curriculum and in the school programmes for all children.**

30. Members of the judiciary as well as officers of the Attorney General's Office and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions have the opportunity during the course of their duties to attend conferences, workshops and seminars on human rights.

31. Officers of the Attorney General's Office have attended the following courses:

(i) Special Commission on the practical operation on the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention and the 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention Part II – 25–31 January 2012, The Hague Netherlands; and

(ii) SADC Regional Information Sharing Conference on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, Johannesburg, South Africa, 25–29 November 2013.

32. The Institute of Judicial and Legal Studies has been set up under the Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies Act which came into operation on 1st October 2011. The objectives of the Institute are, inter alia, to promote proficiency and ensure the maintenance of standards in the judiciary, among law practitioners and legal officers, and generally in the delivery of Court services; foster continuing judicial and legal education; and to promote international exchanges and cooperation with other jurisdictions in the field of judicial and legal studies. On 30 August 2014, Judicial Officers were provided training by the Institute on the "role of the First Responders in Child mal-treatment: Cases-Disaster and Non Disaster, sponsored by the US Embassy. On 28 to 29 January 2014, the Institute also held a workshop for Judicial Officers on [illegible]-family violence: children and other vulnerable victims.

33. The Institute equally devises, organises and conducts Continuing Professional Development Programmes for each of the three branches of the legal profession with a view to broadening the knowledge of law practitioners and legal officers in order to keep them abreast of developments in the law as well as encouraging them to share experiences and to enhance their professional skills. Induction courses are also organised for those who wish to be considered for appointment as a Judge, Magistrate or a legal officer. The Institute of Judicial and Legal Studies is equally conducting courses on human rights issues.

34. The Prime Minister's Office which has the responsibility for the portfolio of Human Rights has since 2011 embarked on sensitization and training programmes targeting the whole population. The following programmes are organized and in each of these programmes, civil and political rights are covered:

(i) The Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, National Human Rights Commission, Ombudsperson for Children, Equal Opportunities Commission carries out three hour sensitization sessions on human rights in all Citizen's Advice Bureaus around the island. Since August 2011 to end of March 2014, some 3050 participants (from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), women's associations, vulnerable groups) have been sensitised;

(ii) The Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with Ministry of Youth and Sports and Equal Opportunities Commission implements a 12-hours Human Rights Education Programme in all Youth Centers around the island for around 500–750 youths each year;

(iii) With a view to promoting human rights through teaching and education, the Commonwealth Secretariat was approached by the Prime Minister's Office to ensure the integration of human rights across the curriculum at pre-primary, primary and secondary levels. The terms of reference have been finalized by the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources and the Commonwealth Secretariat and the implementation of the project will start in the 4th quarter of 2014.

35. At tertiary level, Human Rights Education already forms part of the curriculum of LLB courses. Human Rights are an essential component of training of Police and Prisons Officer. The University of Mauritius has also started a new LLM in International Human Rights Law as from academic year 2013–2014.

(a) Promotion of human rights awareness through the mass media

(i) The Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission and the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation presents a series of TV programme on human Rights in order to sensitise the population about their human rights as provided in the Human Rights Conventions of the United Nations System. The programme is broadcasted once every fortnight at a peak time (during the French news bulletin);

(ii) To provide for a better diffusion of information on human rights, a Human Rights Portal has been developed in collaboration with the National Computer Board. This Portal (http://humanrights.gov.mu) aims at:

(a) Informing all stakeholders about the human rights status and strategy of the Republic of Mauritius;

(b) Lending support to policy makers, trainers in human rights and students in terms of database of human rights indicators;

(c) Acting as a platform for training and sensitization; and

(d) Acting as a communication tool between all human rights stakeholders.

36. In June 2012, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), in collaboration with the Embassy of the United States, organised a 3-day training workshop on the theme of "Child victims and witnesses in the criminal justice". The training was provided by Mrs Tara Neda (Assistant United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico), Mrs Stephanie Knapp (FBI agent) and Mr Stacey Smielada (Special Agent of FBI). Mrs Tara Neda addressed various issues involving a child victim/witness in a criminal case. She also made some recommendations on how to improve the criminal justice system to prevent secondary victimisation of child victims/witnesses. Mrs Knapp talked about the principles governing forensic interviewing of child victims/witnesses. Mr Smielada, on his part, dealt with the interviewing of accused parties. Officers of the ODPP, defence counsel, lawyers from the Attorney General's office, judges, magistrates, Child Development Unit officers and police officers participated in the interactive training workshop. At the end of the training, members of the judiciary and the ODPP agreed to set up a fast-track procedure for sexual offence cases involving child victims.

37. Accordingly, in more serious cases, pre-trial conferences have been held to identify all relevant issues pertaining to a sexual offence case. A special coloured file is being used for such cases in order to allow ODPP officers to immediately identify the file as a case involving child victim so that they can deal with it diligently. When the case is scheduled for trial, two separate dates are earmarked. The first one is to hear all formal witnesses and the second one is fixed to hear the child victim only so as to prevent the latter from waiting in court for a long time.

38. Furthermore, following a request from the Child Development Unit, the ODPP has agreed to provide training on issues pertaining to the prosecution of cases involving child victims/witnesses. A syllabus has been set out and the training is due to start early 2015.

Year	*Training Programmes*
2011	A training on "Child Protection & Psycho-Social Rehabilitation of Sexually Abused Children" was provided to 46 professionals (Family Welfare and Protection Officer, Child Welfare Officer, Police Officers, Probation Officers, Medical Social Workers, Investigators from the Ombudsperson for Children's Office and NGOs) working with children, to deal with case of child victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in a more professional and child friendly manner.
2012	On-the-job training for 14 child mentors in 2 NGOs, namely Centre d'Education et de Developpement pour les Enfants and Terre de Paix. Training in First Aid Course was dispensed by the Mauritius Red Cross Society to the 14 child mentors to enable the latter to provide first hand health assistance to the child mentees. "Child Psychology" training course was provided to 66 foster families, to equip them with the necessary knowledge and information in order to be mentally, emotionally and physically prepared to welcome a child in their respective families; and to equip them with the necessary parenting and coping skills to better understand the different development stages of a child with special attention to the adolescence stage. Training was provided to 43 care givers (Senior Officers, Managers, Carers) from shelter La Colombe and shelter L'Oiseau du Paradis
August 2013	A Training on "Suicide Prevention" and Court Proceedings for Child Mentoring Scheme was provided by a representative of Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions and a representative from the State Law Office to 13 child mentors and 12 CDU Officers. The training has two objectives namely: (1) To sensitise the target group on the social and psychological development of children, taking into consideration signs and symptoms of suicide and its preventive measures amongst others; and (2) To enhance their knowledge on the implication of the Child Protection Act and on the Child Mentoring Programme. "Child Psychology" training course was provided to 29 foster families, to equip them with the necessary knowledge and information in order to be mentally, emotionally and physically prepared to welcome a child in their respective families; and to equip them with the necessary parenting and coping skills to better understand the different development stages of a child with special attention to the adolescence stage. A training on "Child Protection and Psycho-Social Rehabilitation of Sexually Abused Children" was provided to 49 professionals (Family Welfare and Protection Officer, Child Welfare Officer, Police Officers, Probation Officers, Medical Social Workers, Investigators from the OCO and NGOs) working with children, to deal with case of child victims of CSEC in a more professional and child friendly manner. Training was provided to 5 new Family Welfare and Protection Officers and 2 interns posted at the CDU. Training on "Group Supervision", "Child Protection Act" and "Conflict Management" was provided to 20 Assistant Child Protection Officers.

39. Training programmes offered by the Mauritius Institute of Education to pre-service, in-service Educators from 2011 to 2013 in which the Convention on the Rights of the Child were addressed:

- Teacher's Diploma and Certificate in Early Childhood Education
- Certificate in Educational Management in Early Childhood Education
- Certificate of Proficiency in Early Childhood Education
- Early Childhood Education – Teacher's Certificate
- Foundation Course for Child Day Caregivers
- Teacher's Diploma Primary
- Certificate in Special Education.

(b) Programme for School Children

40. Sensitization/ awareness programme on children's rights in primary schools and secondary have been organized for teaching, non-teaching, staff and Management/ Headmasters – May to June 2014 by the Ombudsperson for Children's Office.

41. Human Rights Education which also includes Rights of Children has been included in the Syllabus of Social Studies for Lower secondary, that is, Children of 11 to 14 years of age. Presently, the National Curriculum Framework of Lower Secondary is being reviewed and the Commonwealth Secretariat is working on the Syllabus of Social Studies where the Syllabus of Human Rights Education will be included and mainstreamed in Social Studies Syllabus Human Rights Education will be taught in Lower Secondary as from 2015.

42. During activity periods, awareness is created among the students by NGOs and by the Ombudsperson for Children's Office and National Children's Council. Sensitization is also carried out by the National Children's Council and Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare.

6. Please indicate whether the Equal Opportunities Act No. 42 of 2008 has been passed into law. Please also indicate what concrete measures have been taken to combat prevailing discrimination against and stigmatization of children in vulnerable situations, including children in street situations, children with disabilities as well as children in conflict with the law as regards in particular their access to education, basic social services and facilities, including psychological assistance. Please also explain the measures taken to ensure that children of incarcerated parents are not discriminated against in any way.

43. The Equal Opportunities Act was proclaimed on 01 January 2012 and has been in force since then. The Equal Opportunities Commission which was set up on 24 April 2012 is the embodiment of the clear commitment of Mauritius against all forms of discrimination.

44. The Commission has, inter alia, the following duties:

(a) work towards the elimination of discrimination, and the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different status;

(b) the duty of conciliation following an investigation with respect to a well-founded complaint;

(c) conduct research and educational programmes for the purpose of eliminating discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different status; and

(d) prepare codes and guidelines for the avoidance of discrimination.

45. The aim of the Commission is to ensure that people (including children) are not denied equal opportunities and are not subject to discrimination based on their status including their impairment.

46. Under the Equal Opportunities Act, a direct or indirect discrimination is a less favourable treatment on the basis of status. The definition of "status" includes caste, ethnic origin, colour, creed, place of origin and race thereby further buttressing the safeguards against all forms of racial discrimination. The Equal Opportunities Commission fulfils the role of watchdog. The aim of the Equal Opportunities Commission is to eliminate discrimination in all sectors. The Equal Opportunities Commission not only examines and investigates complaints referred to it but equally investigates "proprio motu" into cases where it believes that an act of discrimination may have been or may be committed.

47. The Act further provides for three types of discrimination: (i) direct discrimination, (ii) indirect discrimination and (iii) discrimination by victimisation. Any act of discrimination under the Act needs to be based on the "status" of the person. The definition of "status" which sets out an exhaustive list of 12 protected grounds under the Act, includes impairment. As such, any person (including a child) who feels that he/she may have been discriminated against on the basis of his/her impairment, may lodge a complaint at the Equal Opportunities Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission"), set up under the Act.

48. This Commission has dealt with two cases of discrimination involving children with disabilities. Both of these cases were conciliated and settled to the satisfaction of the children's family and the Commission.

(a) Education of Children who are "in conflict with the Law"

49. The education of children "in conflict with the law" in Mauritius is placed under the responsibility and guidance of the Mauritius Prison Service, with the help of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, confirming the value attached to education in places of detention. The Mauritius Prison Service provides competent teachers, seconded for duty by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, to teach in juvenile detention facility. The programmes are offered mostly in academic fields including English, Mathematics, French, Information Technology and Music. Non-formal or extracurricular education involves entertainment, sports, educational and social activities. Children placed in rehabilitative institutions are given the opportunity to access quality education as part of the process that will improve their reintegration into society after release.

(b) Basic social services and psychological assistance to "in conflict with law"

50. An external and independent body which includes, psychologist, prison welfare officer, social workers and educators, known as the Board of Visitors, is in place to provide basic social and psychological support, to incarcerated juveniles.

(c) Children of incarcerated parents

51. Children are allowed to stay with their mothers in prison until the age of five in order not to deprive them from motherly care. During their stay in prison, the Prison authority provides all the basic needs of the child, including toiletries, transport, medical facilities and special meals. A special unit, Mother and Child Care Unit has been set up to cater for the children and their mothers. Furthermore, the children attend a Day Care Centre within the prison compound and public schools where they socialize with children from the

community. For those children who are outside of the prison, extra-curricular activities and social functions are regularly organized.

(d) Children in Street Situation

52. The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare (MGECDFW) is assisting the NGO SAFIRE in the rehabilitation of 23 children in street situation. SAFIRE has benefitted funds, from the MGECDFW under the Special Collaborative Programme For Women And Children in Distress, for the purchase of a 15 Seated Van in order to facilitate the transportation of 20 street children from different parts of the island to enable them to attend the educational farm training offered by SAFIRE on a daily basis.

53. Cases referred to the Ministry by SAFIRE are also attended to according to their specific needs.

7. **In the light of the previous recommendation (CRC/C/MUS/CO/2, para. 32), please explain what measures have been taken to ensure that the rights of the child to express his/her views fully are guaranteed in all administrative and judicial proceedings, especially as concerns divorce or separation of parents and custody, in schools and in society in general.**

54. Article 264, alinea 2 of the Code Civil Mauricien provides that when deciding on matters of custody in cases of divorce or separation of parents, the Judge may hear the minor child, thus giving him an opportunity to express himself, and consider the wish of the child before reaching a decision.

55. Furthermore, under Section 18 of the Divorce and Judicial Separation Act, when the Court grants a decree of divorce or judicial separation, it shall make a custody order with regard to any minor child, and when making such order, it shall have regard to the interests of the child as the first and paramount consideration. Section 18(4) specifically provides that in determining the interests of the child, the Court shall inquire into the circumstances of the case and shall for that purpose hear the child if the child is above the age of 10 and capable of discernment.

56. Section 109 of the Criminal Procedure Act provides that in every trial of an offence charged as having been committed, or attempted to be committed, upon a child of tender years, the child, if under the age of 9, shall be admissible as a witness, where the Judge or Magistrate by or before whom the case is tried, is satisfied that he has sufficient intelligence to make a correct statement on the subject of the trial, although he may not understand the nature of an oath or of a solemn affirmation.

57. A child who is heard as a witness under section 109, shall not be examined on oath or solemn affirmation. The child shall be required before giving evidence, to make, in presence of the Judge or Magistrate, a promise to speak the truth in terms of the First Schedule to the Criminal Procedure Act.

58. The evidence given by a child under sections 109 and 110 shall be regarded in all respects as that of a witness lawfully admitted in the cause, and it is for the Judge, Magistrate, or Members of the Jury, as the case may be, by whom the truth of the charge is to be decided to determine what credit, if any, should be given to that evidence.

59. If a child commits a serious offence at school, he will be brought in front of the School Disciplinary Committee, consisting of the Head of School, Educators, Usher and the Head Boy or Head Girl. The child has the right to express himself and give reasons to justify his behaviour. The Committee will listen to him and decide on action to be taken. His parents may be summoned and advice/counselling is given to the child before taking

any type of disciplinary measures. Very often, first time offence is not sanctioned but the child may be given severe warning which is recorded in his file.

Child Participation

60. Consideration is being given to have a specific provision on child participation in the draft Children's Bill. This provision provides that every child who is of such age, maturity and stage of development as to be able to participate in any matter concerning him shall, so far as appropriate, have the right to participate in the matter and any views expressed by the child shall be given due consideration.

61. In 2012, in the context of the 16 Days 16 Rights Campaign, the NCC organised an Interactive Session on "Lets Listen to our Children" with 60 children from Secondary Institutions, whereby they were provided the platform to express themselves on specific issues related to their holistic development.

62. The National Children's Council is envisaging to set a National Children's Forum for children aged 12 to 15 years. The objectives of this Children's Forum among others are:

(a) To serve as a National Interactive Children's Platform in Mauritius through Solidarity, tolerance respect and Social Justice;

(b) To foster peer interaction among children in a spirit of fun and playfulness where children will enjoy the learning processes.

63. The School Child Protection Clubs (SCPC) has been set up in 2010, a multi-staged holistic project which aims at initiating home grown protection clubs for children by children at the level of school itself.

64. The objectives of the SCPC, among others, are:

- To curtail indiscipline/misconduct;
- To encourage the development of a violence free and child friendly school environment;
- Ensuring that the child is aware of his/her rights and responsibilities.

8. Please explain what progress has been made in ensuring prohibition of all forms of corporal punishment in all settings without exception including in the home, as requested in the previous concluding observations (CRC/C/MUS/CO/2, para. 38), and indicate whether the draft Children's Bill contains a clear prohibition of all corporal punishment in all contexts.

65. To ensure prohibition of all forms of corporal punishment in schools the following actions have been undertaken:

- Circulars are regularly sent to schools to remind teachers and other staff of the provisions of the law and sanctions in case of breach;
- Heads of Schools are also regularly reminded of same during meetings held by the Zone Directors; and
- All reported cases are thoroughly investigated by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources and disciplinary action taken where evidence established.

66. Provisions relating to the prohibition of corporal punishment of children, in all settings, have been incorporated in the draft Children's Bill.

9. Please provide detailed information on the effectiveness of measures to facilitate care, recovery and reintegration for child victims of abuse, violence and neglect, and indicate how many children have benefited from such services. In particular, please indicate whether the Child Development Unit (CDU) has the sufficient resources and adequate and trained personnel, including psychologists, to care for the recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration for child victims of violence, ill-treatment, sexual abuse and exploitation, and to provide for protective accommodation for such children.

(a) Measures taken to facilitate care

Reporting of cases

67. A Hotline/Help line service to attend to children in distress/in need of support is available on a 24 hours/7 basis. Both adults and children avail of this hotline to regularly report cases which are attended to promptly by a team of professionals.

68. In order to ensure accessibility and proximity service delivery, the Child Development Unit provides decentralised service through 6 dedicated Outstations across the island. The unit has developed robust networking with all stakeholders to facilitate and sustain prompt and multidisciplinary actions in reported cases of violence.

69. All the services are termed as essential services since they range from lifesaving, provision of basic needs inclusive of roof, food, medical, legal, psychosocial support, assistance for securing of entitlements such as birth certificates, education and support in the criminal justice system, amongst others.

70. Provision of licensing to Child Day Care Centres and their monitoring to ensure compliance with the "Institutions for the Protection and Welfare of Children/regulations 2000" under the Child Protection Act 1994 and this is with the objective of providing a safe and conducive environment for the development of children in the cohort 3 months–3 years.

71. In line with the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction Act 2000, the CDU intervenes in the capacity of a full-fledged Central Authority to deal with the civil aspects of International Child Abduction cases as stipulated under the Hague Convention to which Mauritius adhered as early as 01 October 1993. The CDU, as Central Authority enforces the Convention cum Act 2000 providing child abduction-related services. The statistics as regards cases of International Child Abduction are as follows:

Statistics on International Child Abduction – January 2011 to December 2014

Number of cases recorded in 2011	14
Number of cases recorded in 2012	11
Number of cases recorded in 2013	15
Number of cases recorded in 2014	7
Total number of cases recorded as from January 2011 to September 2014	47
Number of cases still being processed as at date	11
Number of cases dormant	13
Number of cases dealt through diplomatic channels	2
Number of children returned during period January 2011 to September 2014	12
Number of files closed (among cases recorded as from January 2011)	17
Number of cases pending clarification	4

72. The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare also provides psycho-social and legal support for the Tardy declaration of birth of children who are without a birth certificate. The issuance of Birth Certificate provides for the right of the child to a name and identity as well as his/her right to entitlement incumbent to a citizen of the Republic.

Legal Support (Affidavit/petition made) for applicants of Tardy Declaration of Birth from 2011 to 2013

	No. of affidavit petition made
Year	*Children*
2011	65
2012	52
2013	43
Total	**160**

73. Arranging for the tracking of child trafficking/child prostitution cases with the support of Brigade pour la Protection des Mineurs, as well as providing for psycho-social support and alternative skilling to victims of trafficking.

(b) Measures to facilitate recovery

74. The services dispensed by the 6 CDU Outstations, amongst others, comprise the following:

- Emergency Child Protection to children victims of violence and thereafter, their immediate *prise en charge* to ensure survival as per the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Child Protection Act 1994. During period January 2011 to December 2013, 348 Emergency Protection Orders have been issued to remove children from their familiar environment because of violence.

Table showing distribution of EPOs per outstation

Number of Emergency Protection Orders in a year	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*
	144	85	119

- Provision of follow-up services to victims through a programme of home-visits, psycho-social support and assistance as appropriate to parents of victims for rehabilitation and reinsertion purposes. It is to be noted that victims and children at risk are eligible for support and assistance till 18 years of age. During period January 2011 to December 2013, 235 Committal Orders /358 Interim Committal Orders have been issued to ensure that children stay in a place of safety pending family reunification possibilities. For the period of 2011 to 2013, 30 639 Home visits have been conducted and 7 297 parental counselling effected.

Table showing distribution of EPOs per outstation

Number of Interim Commital Orders in a year	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*
	136	86	136

- Identification of Temporary Safe place for children victims of violence, declaration of places of safety, their constant monitoring, as well as arrangement for the payment of a monthly per capitation grant to NGOs providing shelter through Court Orders (Committal Orders) and same provides for sustained periodic review of placement of victims, activity undertaken by a team of trained officials;
- As at September 2014, 554 children under court order were placed in 21 Residential Care Institutions for children victims of violence.
- Setting up of a day care Drop-In Centre in 2003 to cater for the day-to-day needs (bio-psycho-socio-economic and medical) of CSEC victims.

(c) Measures for reintegration

75. Measures for reintegration include the following:

(i) Screening/Pooling in of foster parents with a view to providing sustainable substitute familial environment in foster care rather than in Institutions to children victims of violence, training of these parents, matching of child in need of fostering with potential foster parents, foster placement through court orders under the Foster Care Regulations 2002 and monitoring of these placements;

(ii) Screening/Pooling in of adults mentors, capacity building of prospective mentors, matching of mentors with children displaying behavioural problems and court placement of child with mentor through Child Mentoring Orders under the Child Protection Act, amended 2008 and their constant monitoring;

(iii) Setting up and empowering District Child Protection Committees, as well as identifying and setting up Community Child Watch as surveillance mechanisms in high risk areas and their capacity building to ensure there is better understanding of child rights at local levels and its enlistment in community development with respect to Child Protection. The Community Child Protection Programmes as well as Parental Empowerment Programme provide for the preparation of both the parents and the community to welcome back and support the child once he/she is away from Institutions;

(iv) A residential care facility to accommodate children victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSEC victims) for sustained rehabilitative activities has been set up;

(v) The development of information, education and communication material to provide for ongoing sensitisation and capacity building of stakeholders has improved the handling of CSEC victims;

(vi) The reviewing of legislation for harsher penalties and the systematic reporting of violence against children cases to the Police for criminal investigation, prosecution and conviction provide to deter such acts;

(vii) The provision of information and policy advice as well as entertaining policy dialogue with all Governmental, Non-Governmental stakeholders at national, regional and international levels to keep abreast of all developments provide for the adoption and implementation of best practices in child-related issues.

76. At present, the CDU is staffed with 24 Family Welfare and Protection Officers, 7 Care Workers and 14 Assistant Child Programme Officers, 7 Psychologists (six permanent and one on sessional basis). Most of our Psychologists are Clinical Psychologists. Each outstation (6 in all) has one Psychologist posted therein.

77. One Psychiatrist has been recruited on sessional basis to attend to child psychiatric cases placed in institutions (At present, children at risk are placed in 21 institutions).

10. Given the reported increase of sexual exploitation of children, and in particular child prostitution in the State party, please clarify the preventive measures adopted and explain whether the perpetrators of sexual exploitation of children are systematically held to account.

78. The Child Protection Act 1994 was amended in December 2005 to make provision for all cases of child trafficking, abandonment and abduction to be dealt with by officers of this Ministry who are responsible for child welfare and development. Tougher penalties have also been provided for in case of contravention of the provisions of the law. Penalties under the present Child Protection Act for sexual offences and indecent photographs of children have been revised from a fine of Rs 75,000 and imprisonment not exceeding 8 years to Rs 100, 000 and 20 years respectively. As for cases of mentally handicapped victims, offenders are liable to a fine of Rs 100, 000 and imprisonment not exceeding 30 years.

79. The Child Protection Act was further amended in December 2008 to provide for a Child Mentoring Scheme. The Child Mentoring Scheme which is a well-structured and well managed programme which provides individual guidance and support to adolescents with behavioural problems who may also be prone to becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation and child violence in general. The Child Mentoring Scheme aims at providing such children with a role model to look up to, especially when they are evolving in a precarious and unstable environment. The Scheme ensures that these children are appropriately screened and matched with trained adult mentors for a one to one relationship of emotional reconstruction.

80. In 2011, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography visited Mauritius. During that visit, Mauritius ratified the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography on 14 June 2011 and signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure on 13 August 2012.

81. Following the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur, a National Child Protection Strategy and Action Plan is being prepared with the assistance of a Consultant from the European Union.

82. The Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act 2009 was passed on 21 April 2009. The objectives of the Act are to give effect to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; prevent and combat trafficking in persons; and protect and assist victims of trafficking. It provides for repatriation of victims of trafficking, and return of victims of trafficking to Mauritius, as well as compensation to victims of trafficking.

83. The Ombudsperson for Children's Office was set up in 2003, following the adoption of the Ombudsperson for Children's Act (2003) by the Parliament. An Ombudsperson for Children was appointed on the 10 December 2003.

84. Section 5 of the Ombudsperson for Children's Act (2003) provides that "The Ombudsperson for Children shall:

(a) Ensure that the rights, needs, and interests of children are given full consideration by public bodies, private authorities, individuals and association of individuals;

(b) Promote the rights and best interests of children; and

(c) Promote compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The main duties of the Ombudsperson for Children are to investigate cases of violation of the rights of the child and make proposals to the relevant authorities, including Ministers, on legislations, policies and practices. The Ombudsperson for Children also sensitizes children and the public at large on the Convention on the Rights of the Child".

(a) Training Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

85. The CDU conducts ongoing awareness raising and training programmes for both government and non-governmental officers working with children so that they are empowered to recognise the signs and symptoms of CSEC phenomenon as well as to handle cases of CSEC in a more professional and child friendly manner. In this context, from 2011 to 2013, 95 professionals such as Family Welfare and Protection Officer, Child Welfare Officer, Police Officers, Probation Officers, Medical Social Workers, Investigators from the Ombudsperson for Children's Office, and NGOs working with children have been trained on CSEC matters by a local consultant with a view to providing better services to victims of CSEC.

(b) Sensitisation Campaign on CSEC

86. From 2011 to 2013, 1192, talks/ forums/ interactive sessions were carried out, during which 40874 students and 2716 teachers were reached by the National Children' s Council, a parastatal body operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare. From 2012 to 2013, 3 329 people were sensitized on dangers of juvenile prostitution and trafficking and also on the sanctions for perpetrators of trafficking in primary, secondary schools and in Community Centres and Social Welfare Centres by Officers of the CDU. It is to be noted that campaigns on CSEC are regularly being conducted by other organisations such as Brigade Pour la Protection des Mineurs, Ombudsperson for Children's Office, Police Department and NGOs.

(c) "Écoles des Parents"

87. 40 batches of "Écoles des Parents" have been set up whereby 1300 parents have been sensitised on CSEC the year 2011 to 2013.

(d) School Child Protection Clubs

88. From 2012 to 2013, 261 (170 primary and 91 secondary), School Child Protection Clubs, which are home grown protection clubs for children by children at the level of the school, were set up whereby, from the year 2011 to 2013, 22,154 children have been sensitized on the Convention of the Rights of the Child as well as on CSEC.

(e) Community Child Watch Committees

89. 32 Community Child Watch Committees have been set up in high risk areas allow for proximity service including surveillance and reporting of cases of children exposed to any form of violence inclusive of CSEC.

(f) District Child Protection Committees

90. 9 District Child Protection Committees (DCPCs) have been set up to monitor Child Protection issues inclusive of CSEC at the district level with the objectives of implementing Government's policies related to the survival, development, protection and welfare of children through the adoption of a participatory approach. All cases of CSEC reported to this Ministry are systematically reported to the Police for action as appropriate.

(g) Campaigns carried out by National Children Council (NCC)

91. From 2011 to 2013, the NCC has conducted 641 talks/interactive sessions and targeted 17396 students and 1135 teachers on the issue of Convention on the Rights of the Child. From 2011 to 2013, the NCC has conducted 324 talks/interactive sessions and targeted 13529 students and 1113 teachers on the issue of Commercial and Sexual Exploitation of Children. From 2011 to 2013, the NCC has conducted 227 talks/interactive sessions and targeted 9949 students on Child Protection Issues (Child Sexual abuse and Teenage Pregnancy). In 2013, 468 teachers were targeted on the same issue.

(h) Preventive Measures Adopted Against Cases of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Action Against Perpetrators

92. The Police carry out investigations in all reported cases of sexual exploitation of children. Prompt assistance is provided to the child victim. The Mauritius Police Force (MPF) has conducted a series of training courses on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), Child Abuse and Trafficking in Persons for Police Officers working at Police Stations as well as those Officers posted to specialized units, with a view to providing them with the necessary knowledge, skills and techniques to deal with such cases.

93. The following preventive measures are in place:

(a) As regards sexual abuse, MPF not only focuses on intervention but also, on prevention. Police carry out sensitization campaigns targeting children and women on:

(i) protective behaviour and personal safety;

(ii) services provided by the Police, the Ministry concerned and other stakeholders; and

(iii) relevant laws and other instruments relating to sexual abuse.

The number of sensitization sessions conducted since 2010 to September, 2014 is shown below:

Sensitization Campaign on Child Abuse including Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children for the period 2010 to 2014 (Jan.–Sep.)

Year 2010

Talks and Lectures delivered by PFPU & BPM			
1.	Primary Schools	97	7921 pupils
2.	Secondary Schools	96	12,439 pupils
3.	Social Welfare Centres	86	4375 persons
Total		**279**	**24,735 persons**

Year 2011

Talks and Lectures delivered by PFPU & BPM			
1.	Primary Schools	143	12,210 pupils
2.	Secondary Schools	80	8455 pupils
3.	Social Welfare Centres	178	10518 persons
Total		**401**	**31,183 persons**

Year 2012

Talks and Lectures delivered by PEPU & BPM			
1.	Primary Schools	188	17,098 pupils
2.	Secondary Schools	206	20,801 pupils
3.	Social Welfare Centres	147	7151 persons
Total		**541**	**45050 persons**

Year 2013 (Jan–Aug)

Talks and Lectures delivered by PEPU & BPM			
1.	Primary Schools	193	15331 pupils
2.	Secondary Schools	223	19648 pupils
3.	Social Welfare Centres	178	7464 persons
Total		**494**	**42443 persons**

Year 2014 (Jan–Sep)

Talks and Lectures delivered by PEPU & BPM			
1.	Primary Schools	206	15778 pupils
2.	Secondary Schools	203	16326 pupils
3.	Social Welfare Centres	142	6679 persons
Total		**551**	**38783 persons**

Training courses on CSEC, Child Abuse and Trafficking in Persons for Police Officers from year 2011 to September 2014.

	Year	*Training Courses Seminars Workshop Conducted*	*No of attendees*
1	2011	Training to Station Orderlies\frontline customer care officers on domestic violence/ Child Abuse/ GBV	119
2	2012	Training to Station Orderlies\frontline customer care officers on domestic violence/ Child Abuse/ GBV	83
3	2013	Training to Station Orderlies\frontline customer care officers on domestic violence/ Child Abuse/ GBV	*
4	2014 (Jan–Sep)	Training to Station Orderlies\frontline customer care officers on domestic violence/ Child Abuse/ GBV	*

* This Module is being included in courses on GBV and Effective Police Response to Violence against Women & Children

	Year	*Training Courses Seminars Workshop Conducted*	*No of attendees*
1	2013	Interviewing Children – Stepwise Approach	723
2	2014 (Jan–Sep)	Interviewing Children – Stepwise Approach	165

	Year	*Training Courses Seminars Workshop Conducted*	*No of attendees*
1.	2010	Trafficking in Persons	359
2.	2011	Trafficking in Persons	–
3.	2012	Trafficking in Persons	–
4.	2013	Trafficking in Persons	–
5.	2014 (Jan–Sep)	Trafficking in Persons	328

	Year	*Training Courses Seminars Workshop Conducted*	*No of attendees*
1	2011	Effective Police Response to Violence against Women & Children	20
2	2012	Effective Police Response to Violence against Women & Children	57
3	2013	Effective Police Response to Violence against Women & Children	–
4	2014 (Jan–Sep)	Effective Police Response to Violence against Women & Children	202

(b) Victims are also encouraged to report and to provide information on suspected cases of sexual abuse to the Police.

(c) In primary and secondary schools, pupils are informed about:

(i) Their rights and responsibilities;

(ii) What constitutes sexual abuse;

(iii) Types of behaviour likely to cause or place them at risk;

(iv) Relevant laws/instruments on sexual abuse; and

(v) Discipline and personal safety.

(d) A Protective Behaviour Programme is carried out by Police for primary school children where pupils are explained about good and bad touch and a copy of "Le Toucher Booklet" is distributed to pupils; and

(e) Regular crackdown operations are carried out at Bus Stands, places of entertainment and others.

94. The Police conduct enquiries into reported cases of sexual exploitation of children. Upon completion of these cases, these are forwarded to the Director of Public Prosecutions, for advice. Where warranted, proceedings are initiated against the accused.

95. In March 2013, the Office of the Director of the Public Prosecutions (ODPP) launched a booklet called "Tanya so Zistwar". The booklet was published in Creole language. It is the story of a girl, victim of sexual abuse. The booklet explains in a plain language the steps to be taken when sexual abuse upon a child has occurred. Some 10,000 copies of the booklet have been distributed to students from secondary schools around the island.

96. In September 2014, officers from the ODPP made two presentations to the non–governmental organisation "Mouvement d'Aide à la Maternité" on sexual abuse. Accordingly, copies of "Tanya so Zistwar" were also distributed.

97. In October 2014, the ODPP will launch an informative leaflet on domestic violence which will be published in French, English, Creole and Braille. The leaflet will provide practical information to victims of domestic violence.

98. With regards to perpetrators of sexual offences, accused parties are prosecuted before the Intermediate Court in the majority of cases. As far as the remaining cases are concerned, the case may not be proceeded with if there has been a withdrawal by the declarant or if the evidence is weak.

99. A tailor-made Junior Life Skills Education Course is organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, in collaboration with the National Empowerment Foundation for children of various less privileged regions. Modules on Sexuality, Self Esteem, Values, Parenthood, Healthy Lifestyle, etc. are presented/taught r ainly through activities and games.

11. Please clarify the measures taken to provide families who have difficulties in the upbringing of children with necessary support, includin', parental and counselling services. Please explain what steps have been taken, if any, to remove the possibility for parents, under the Juvenile Offenders Act (Section 18), to place a child in a rehabilitation youth centre on the basis of an oath before a juvenile court that a "child is beyond control".

Measures taken to provide families who have difficulties in the upbringing of children with necessary support, including parental and counselling services:

100. At the level of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, counselling services are offered by Educational Psychologists and the Educational Social Workers who provide psychological assistance and support and promote the general welfare and wellbeing of children and families for proper care and upbringing. These Officers provide help, support, counselling and guidance to pupils and students and family members to ensure a protective environment for the child. The Educational Social Worker establishes school/ Home links and conduct home visits and give practical advice and guidance on proper development and upbringing of the child. The Ministry also networks with other Ministries and institutions catering for the general welfare of children and their families and families requiring special attention and care.

101. At the level of both the Child Protection Services and the Family Support Bureau (Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare), professionals offer parental counselling to parents having difficulties with respect to upbringing of their children. The Child Mentoring Programme provides the opportunity and the means to assist children aged between 10 to 16 years, suffering from mild behavioural problems. The support of child mentors as role models enables these child mentees to be empowered and equipped with necessary skills for the latter to build a constructive relationship with their families and the society. The Child Mentoring Programme enables families to consider as an alternative solution the possibility to place their children under such programme to prevent the latter from becoming "child beyond control" and thus committed to Rehabilitation Youth Centre. During sessions between the child mentors and child mentees, activities are carried to build up their sense of creativity and develop their emotional capabilities to face life. Psychological support is also provided to child mentees and their respective families as and when required.

102. The Probation and Aftercare Service, which is under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions, offers counselling services to parents who have unruly children. The Service also organizes talks on such subjects also "roles and responsibilities of parents" and "interpersonal relationship in the family". It is

felt that it is more appropriate to use welfare rather than a justice-based approach to deal with "children beyond control".

District Court	*No of applications for Child Beyond Control*	*No of committal Order*	*No of Applications set aside*	*No of Applications withdrawn*
Grand Port	5	10	4	–
Rivière du Rempart	3	–	3	–
Curepipe	8	2	6	–
Black River	13	1	12	–
Moka	8	2	6	–
Savanne	3	3	–	–
Rose Hill	8	1	7	–
Flacq	10	–	5	5
Pamplemousses	3	1	2	–

103. The Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment through the National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) provides parents with various support such as payment of school fees, transport, daily meals as well as follow-up by social workers. Life skills education sessions are also organised for beneficiaries of the NEF to enable them to better deal with problem that can arise with their children and families. Moreover, nine day care centres have been set up by the NEF to provide child care services to enable mothers from low income families to join the workforce.

104. The draft Children's Bill envisages to repeal section 18 of the Juvenile Offenders Act, and to deal with this category of children as persons who are in need of care and protection. Consideration is being given to establish a procedure for a finding of irreconcilable difference between a person who has custody of the child and the child, where the difference is of such a nature as to seriously disrupt the care and control of the child.

12. In relation to the situation of children separated from their parents, please provide information on the measures taken to enhance alternative care options outside institutionalisation, on the alternatives to avoid placement of children under three years in institutional care as well as on the monitoring mechanisms to control the quality of residential care institutions. In addition, please explain how children are assisted in maintaining contact with their incarcerated parent.

105. As an alternative to institutionalisation, children victims of abuse are placed in Foster families in a bid to provide them with a caring and supportive family environment. Whenever possible, arrangement is made for biological parents to visit their children who have been placed in foster care. In view of ensuring that quality care is maintained in Residential Care Institutions, the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare has set up monitoring mechanisms as follows:

(a) Visits carried out on a regular basis;

(b) Surprise visits/ checks are effected;

(c) Children interviewed and problem arising with minors are attended to;

(d) Maintenance of a tidy environment in rooms, kitchens, toilets and wash rooms;

(e) Menu checks so as to maintain a balanced diet;

(f) List of Do's and Don'ts has been worked out for management of Residential Care Institution to be adhered to;

(g) Mid-Term meetings are held with Management of Residential Care Institutions under the chairpersonship of the Minister to share best practices; and

(h) Prisons Welfare Officers with the support of officers of the Child Development Unit facilitate visits of children of incarcerated parents.

106. Children placed in Residential Care institutions including those with physical/mental disabilities are provided support in terms of Psychological, Psychiatric and Social Support. Rehabilitative activities are also provided through regular contact with parents in terms of supervised visits to facilitate the integration.

Assistance provided to children in maintaining contact with their incarcerated parent

107. Children are allowed to visit their parents who are incarcerated, either face to face visit or through video conferencing, and they can also get into contact with their parents through authorised phone calls. Some Non-Governmental Organizations have also been co-opted to help in maintaining the link between the children and their incarcerated parents.

108. Wherever possible, children who are under 3 years old are placed in foster families.

109. The Child Mentoring Programme is also relevant as it provides assistance to children displaying mild behavioural problems, and it allows for the follow up of these children by child mentors, without removing the child from his family environment.

13. Please provide information on the status of the draft new adoption and on other measures taken to ensure that the court decisions on adoption are substantiated by relevant information regarding the actual status of the child and of adopting parents in order to ensure that adoption is in the best interests of the child. Please also clarify how the prospective adoptive or foster parents are screened, how the adoptability of the child is established and whether any public authorized body oversees the whole process.

110. A National Adoption Council set up under the National Adoption Council Act of 1988 operates under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office and is administered by a Board. The National Adoption Council enquires into all demands for adoption of Mauritian citizens from non-citizens and coordinates with official overseas agencies engaged in the adoption and welfare of children, and advise Government accordingly.

111. A draft Adoption Bill is being worked upon and it is envisaged to include the setting up of a new structure for the National Adoption Council (NAC) as the Central Authority, in the context of the domestication of provisions the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.

112. Court decisions on adoptions are currently taken in compliance with the provisions of the Code Civil Mauricien (CCM). Article 353 of the CCM, which applies to both Adoption Simple and Adoption Plenière, specifically provides that the Judge can grant the adoption only if all the conditions as set out in the CCM are met, and provided that the adoption is in the best interest of the child.

113. Regarding the status of the child, the CCM sets out which category of children are eligible for Adoption Simple and Adoption Plenière (Articles 348 and 365 of the CCM respectively).

114. Standard Operating Procedures have been established administratively to identify adoptable children and for the screening of prospective adoptive parents to ensure that adoptions are effected in the best interests of children, both locally and internationally.

115. All applications for adoption have to be supported by affidavits sworn by the prospective adoptive parents, which set out their actual circumstances, those of the child, and if relevant, those of the biological parents. Such information allows the Judge to assess whether the adoption is in the best interest of the child. Also, all applications for adoption are invariably referred to the Ministère Public for its conclusions. The latter enquires into the application, through Social Enquiry reports and Police reports, to gather all relevant information to gauge the genuineness of the application, and to decide whether the adoption is in the best interest of the child. The Ministère Public then files its conclusions with the Judge, who takes same into consideration before deciding on the application.

116. The draft Adoption Bill, which is currently under preparation, is yet to be finalized because there are few important policy issues, which need to be creased out at the level of the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions.

14. Please provide updated information on measures taken to develop inclusive education, including professional and vocational training for children with disabilities in all parts of the country and to ensure their fullest possible social integration without exclusion from other children. Please also provide information on measures taken to establish a national system of early detection, referral and intervention to assist children with disabilities and their families, and indicate whether children with disabilities placed in shelters receive social care or psychological support from sufficiently trained personnel.

117. In order to bring inclusive, quality and free primary and secondary education to children with disabilities, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources has taken a series of measures as listed below:

- Integrated Units have been set up in Government Primary Schools around the island. At present, there are 13 such Integrated Units;
- Schools are being retrofitted with ramps to facilitate access to classrooms in a phased manner;
- All new Secondary Schools constructed are provided with ramps and adapted toilets;
- Facilities like music room, library, science laboratory and computer rooms are available on the ground floor where necessary. In Primary Schools, Head Masters usually move the whole class to the ground floor wherever necessary;
- Children with hearing impairment are provided Special Teachers/Interpreters in the mainstream secondary school with the active collaboration with the NGOs and for the purpose of examinations;
- Enlarged Print school books/ manuals and question papers are provided to children with poor eyesight;
- Facilities of carers are provided in Primary and Secondary mainstream schools to enable children with disabilities to move around the school compound and to participate actively in academic activities;
- Support Services: The Ministry has embarked on the setting up of three Resource and Development Centres. These Centres will provide services to children with disabilities according to their needs;
- The registration procedures for Special Education Needs (SEN) Children have been reviewed. There is an intensive campaign to persuade and encourage parents to register their wards in the nearest primary schools.

Early Identification

- The Mauritius Institute of Education has conducted courses on Early Detection for Pre-Primary Teachers.

Support to Children placed in shelters

- Educators have been posted to La Colombe shelter, Pointe aux Sables and Shelter for Women in Distress, Curepipe.

Pre-vocational Education

- Pre-vocational education is a special programme targeting student having serious learning difficultics and having unsuccessfully completed the Primary cycle;
- The programme is run alongside the mainstream in the secondary schools so that all children benefit of the same facilities available at the school and enjoy the same rights;
- All students participate together in extra-curricular activities and other events organized by the school;
- The only difference is that the Prevocational stream follows a different programme that is more adapted to their special educational needs. The assessment mode has also been adapted to suit their abilities;
- Educators are recruited to work either in mainstream or for the Prevocational stream but for some subjects e.g. Physical Education and ICT the same teachers work in both streams;
- Heads of Schools are regularly sensitized on the need to banish all forms of exclusion from their school;
- Greater flexibility is, however, exercised towards children with special education needs so as to give them the best chances to succeed;
- Re-building the self-esteem and self-confidence of these children is considered as essential. Furthermore, at the end of the cycle they are awarded a fully recognized certificate that gives full acknowledgement to their work, efforts and achievements;
- Efforts are being made to include children with mild disabilities within the schools. For those following the Prevocational Education programme, it is proposed to review the repertoire of trades taught to better suit their abilities.

118. The following facilities are being provided by the Disability Unit, which is under the aegis of Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions, to promote inclusive education:

(a) Refund of bus fare for accompanying parents to encourage the latter to send their children to school;

(b) Assistive devices, such as hearing aids;

(c) Scholarship scheme to encourage children with disabilities to pursue secondary education;

(d) Materials for blind children in accessible format; and

(e) A Mauritian Sign Language which is used as a means of interaction for deaf children and interpreters to assist them in schools.

(f) Buildings Control Act makes provision for all new educational institutions to be accessible to the disabled.

119. High risk pregnancies outcome and new-borns with complications in the neonatal period, admitted to NICU or Nursery (Special Care Baby Unit), are screened by Transfontanelle Ultrasound to detect structural abnormalities of the brain, intra ventricular haemorrhages; They are also screened for visual and hearing defects at about 1–2 months of life. They are hence referred early on to the Eye and Ear specialists.

120. Children with delayed head holding (6 months), with convulsions, or with limb spasticity are referred to the occupational therapist at about 6–9 months of age.

121. Children with delayed language development are referred to the speech therapist at about 2 years of age.

122. A special consultation has been set up to follow and treat children with orthopaedic problems.

123. Children with learning difficulties are referred to the psychologist for I.Q tests and to special schools.

15. **Please describe the strategies to address low birth weight among babies and indicate the measures taken to improve mother's health. Please also provide information on ongoing programmes on adolescent health, including access to confidential reproductive health information and services and clarify whether comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education is part of the mandatory school curricula and targeted at adolescent girls and boys, with special attention on preventing early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Please also clarify whether drug awareness-raising has been integrated into the mandatory school curricula.**

124. Measures taken to improve mother's health: All pregnant women are seen as early as possible in the first trimester of pregnancy. They are screened for anaemia, blood group incompatibilities, infectious diseases like syphilis, TB, HIV, and other conditions which may have an effect on the fetus like Diabetes, hypertension, Eclampsia and pre eclampsia. All high-risk pregnancies are followed at the regional hospitals by the specialist obstetrician.

125. Low birth weight babies are admitted to the nursery or neonatal intensive-care unit (NICU), depending on their condition at birth. They are examined by the paediatrician and also followed up after discharge regularly till they have at least 2 years or "catch up" with normal babies.

126. With regard to adolescent health, apart from primary school health programme, a secondary school health screening programme has been set up in order to examine teenagers to detect and treat obesity, diabetes and to motivate them for a healthy lifestyle, proper eating habits, exercise, drug free and alcohol free.

127. The Ministry of Education and Human Resource offers ongoing Programmes on Adolescent Health to enable adolescents to lead healthy and active lives. Health and Physical Education curricula provide students opportunities to engage in healthy and sustainable physical activity, develop knowledge about issues regarding life choices and quality of life. These curricula provide incentive for reducing the incidence of social ills, such as alcohol and tobacco consumption, drug addiction, crime and delinquency.

128. A tailor-made Junior Life Skills Education Course is organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in collaboration with the National Empowerment Foundation for children of various less privileged regions. Modules on Sexuality, Self Esteem, Values, Parenthood, Healthy Lifestyle, etc. are presented/ taught mainly through activities and games.

129. The Ministry of Youth and Sports also organises sensitization campaigns on Behaviour Change and Communication Programme in schools, youth clubs and other organisations. Talks on HIV and AIDS are also organized in schools where youngsters are given information on causes, prevalence, modes of transmission, treatment and preventive measures. Regional activities are organized in schools and Youth Centres, where students are given the opportunity to express themselves on subjects pertaining to HIV and AIDS.

130. The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, through the Special Collaborative Programme for Women and Children in Distress has provided support to Adolescent Non Formal Education Network (ANFEN) and CARITAS Ile Maurice.

131. CARITAS Ile Maurice has benefitted under this scheme for the project "Education support programmes for vulnerable families in the South East region of Mauritius." and ANFEN for the project "Developing an inclusive for vulnerable out of schools adolescents to facilitate their re integration into mainstream society"

132. These projects aim to reach out to children and parents of vulnerable families to better equip them with required information on health-related issues be it psychological, emotional or physical. Parents are also sensitised on the importance of health and their role in encouraging their children to adhere to proper nutritional habits and hygiene.

(a) Extracurricular activity

133. Substance Abuse Prevention was conducted by NATReSA in 126 Secondary Schools (targeting 15195 students), from January 2014 till August 2014. The Objective was to strengthen gender sensitive prevention programmes through education on alcohol and substance abuse in secondary institution.

134. HIV/AIDS Sensitization Programme was conducted in Secondary Schools by AIDS UNIT, Ministry of Health & Quality of Life from January 2014 till August 2014 where 17850 students have been targeted while visiting 340 schools.

135. Ongoing programmes on adolescent health, including Sexual access to confidential reproductive health information and services are conducted by the CDU.

136. The Mauritius Family Planning Welfare Association provides youth programmes including youth friendly services to adolescents through the Drop-in Centre and the Youth Action Movement.

137. Educational sessions are conducted for the in-school students at primary and secondary levels. IEC for the out of school adolescent and youth conducted in the community with the collaboration of youth-related institutions and centres. Regular awareness sessions through Focus group Discussions as behaviour change programme for the inmates of Rehabilitation Youth Centres and shelters catering for adolescents and youth.

138. Sensitisation and awareness programmes on youth-related issues conducted in the context of International days' commemoration including Day of the African Child and World Population Day.

139. Youth friendly services which is operated by the Youth Action Movement (YAM).

(b) Radio programmes

140. Radio Programmes are recorded and broadcasted on a fortnightly basis in Creole and Hindi languages through the Radio Mauritius and Radio Maurice Channels at the Mauritius Broadcasting Cooperation, Moka and other private radios on request. Topics of Radio Programmes are:

(a) Sexual Abuse;

(b) Indicators and risks factors of Sexual abuse;

(c) Child Prostitution;

(d) Teenage Pregnancy;

(e) Adolescent and Sexual Behaviour;

(f) Adolescence and the Role of parents;

(g) Youth sexual health;

(h) Suicide among youth;

(i) Methods of Contraception;

(j) Breast Cancer, and other related topics.

Table showing Number of Psychosexual and Contraceptive Counselling sessions held from 2011–2013

Year	*Drop in Centre*	*Youth Friendly Services (MFPWA)*	*Group Therapy Counselling*	*Total*
2011	112	144	50	306
2012	132	100	10	242
2013	158	180	7	345
Total	**402**	**424**	**67**	**893**

16. **With regard to the Committee's previous recommendation (CRC/C/MUS/CO/2, para. 19) and the State party's information (CRC/C/MUS/3-5, paras. 14–17), please provide information on the measures taken to address disparities between urban and rural areas in the field of education, health care, and support for families and children living below the relative poverty line etc. Please also provide detailed information on measures taken to ensure an adequate standard of living for children and combat social exclusion, especially those in single parent families, in families with three children or more, and in families from ethnic minority backgrounds. Please provide information on measures taken to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation in all parts of the country, and particularly in Rodrigues.**

141. In Mauritius, there is no disparity between urban and rural areas in the field of health care and education. Schools throughout the Island enjoy same facilities. All schools follow the same curriculum.

142. The eradication of poverty and social integration of vulnerable groups is high on the agenda of Government and the process to achieve these objectives started in May 2010 with the creation of a dedicated Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment to combat poverty in all its forms, improve the plight of our vulnerable citizens and ensure the process of economic democratization reaches every section of the population.

143. Mauritius relentlessly works at moving people out of the poverty trap, which stands at less than 1% by international standards.

144. The strategy with regard to the eradication of poverty and economic empowerment of vulnerable families focuses on three main pillars, namely Child Welfare and Family Empowerment, Social Housing and Community Development and Placement and Training.

145. The National Empowerment Foundation is the implementing arm of the Ministry and targets vulnerable families who have a monthly household income of less than 200 USD excluding social aid.

146. Its main areas of intervention are social housing, education, creation of increased opportunities for employability through training and placement, improvement of the living environment through infrastructural development and provision of community facilities in deprived regions, the main objective of which is to bring behavioural change in the vulnerable persons to empower them as responsible citizens. Medical screening facilities are also provided to beneficiaries in deprived regions.

147. Furthermore, with a view to addressing the feminization of poverty, a series of measures is available for the economic empowerment of vulnerable women through the provision of adult life skills and literacy/numeracy courses, training opportunities in the fields of housekeeping, domestic operations, child care, pastry, beauty care, hair design, creative textile and entrepreneurship, implementation of projects such as backyard gardening, egg production and small scale farming activities. Support is also provided to vulnerable women to send their children to day care centres and schools to enable them to enter into productive employment.

148. Some of the main achievements under the different Programmes are as follows:

Child Welfare and Family Empowerment

- More than 25,000 children of vulnerable families, including 6,000 in Rodrigues, are provided with school materials every year;
- 9 Child Day Centres have been set up in deprived regions;
- 1954 and 965 students of pre-primary and primary schools in Mauritius and Rodrigues respectively were provided with meals, school fees, transport facilities and "*accompagnement scolaire*" in 2014;
- Since 2012, some 30 learning corners with internet facilities have been set up in Mauritius for needy children. 20 learning corners have been set up in Rodrigues;
- 3 Schools of Music have been set up across the island to provide training opportunities to vulnerable children;
- Recreational facilities are provided to some 1500 vulnerable children during school holidays every year;
- Basic functional literacy and numeracy courses have been offered to 1080 beneficiaries in Mauritius and Rodrigues respectively since 2013;
- From 2011 to date, some 5000 heads of vulnerable households have benefitted from life skills training courses;
- Around 3000 vulnerable children from the age of 8 to 16 have been provided with junior life skills courses;
- 800 single mothers in Rodrigues have been sensitized on family planning and birth control since 2013;
- Some 300 beneficiaries in Rodrigues have been trained in IC3 computer courses since 2013;
- 120 vulnerable women have been provided with training in entrepreneurship;
- 626 vulnerable youngsters were provided with training in the development of arts and sports;

- A shelter for female ex-detainees was set up at Palma in 2013;
- A Detox Centre was set up at l'Escalier in 2010 to address problems of substance abuse;
- Micro credit facilities were provided to some 535 and 550 vulnerable families in Mauritius and Rodrigues respectively in 2011;
- Assistance was provided to 1250 vulnerable families in 2010 for the setting up of 1250 micro enterprises under the Booster Loan Scheme.

Social Housing and Community Development

- Since July 2005 to date, more than 6000 temporary corrugated iron sheet housing units have been constructed;
- From April 2011 to date, some 500 concrete housing units with corrugated iron sheet roof have been provided to vulnerable families;
- Since 2010, 4 Integrated Housing projects have been implemented in villages such as La Valette, Sottise, Dubreuil and Gros Cailloux, Petite Rivière for the benefit of some 299 vulnerable families;
- Assistance was provided to some 210 vulnerable families for the upgrading of their housing units in 2013;
- Infrastructural works were undertaken in deprived areas to improve the living environment of vulnerable families;
- 3 recreational centres have been set up in rural areas such as Camp La Boue, Camp Acacia and Camp Raffia;
- 1 Multi-purpose Centre was set up at Débarcadère, Pointe aux Sables in March 2014;
- 1 Fitness and Recreational Park is operational at Circonstance since April 2014;
- In 2011, access to drinking water was provided to 13 and 48 families in deprived areas at Le Bouchon and African Town respectively;
- From 2008 to date, 1300 vulnerable families in Rodrigues have been provided with building materials for the construction of concrete housing units and around 1089 families were provided with water tanks from 2010 to 2012.

Training and Placement

- From 2011 to date, more than 10,000 persons have been placed and trained in various sectors, of whom around 2200 have secured employment;
- 300 vulnerable women were provided with training to secure employment as household workers in 2013;
- Some 47 and 18 persons were enrolled in 2013 and in 2014 under the Circular Migration Project.

149. Apart from the financial commitment of Government, a legal framework has also been put in place in 2010 whereby the private sector also participates in the national effort towards the eradication of poverty. Private companies are allowed to use 50% of their CSR funds to implement projects in four priority intervention areas including the welfare of vulnerable children, social housing and alleviation of absolute poverty. Furthermore, the private sector works in collaboration with the National Empowerment Foundation and is

encouraged to adopt poverty regions and implement projects with an integrated approach for the benefit of vulnerable families in these regions.

150. Irrespective of children coming from rural or urban areas, the Ministry of Youth and Sports offers the following youth programmes through its 28 Youth Centres: Promotion of Literary Activities, Youth Leadership Courses, Life Skills Education, Leadership Course Modules, Life Skills Education Course Modules, Jeunes Entreprises, Special Vacances, Behaviour Change and Communication Programme, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award — Mauritius, Youth Excellence Award, Artistic Pursuit, I-Café, Environment Awareness Programme

151. Since January 2013, the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions has introduced a conditional case transfer scheme aimed at vulnerable families with income assessed to be less than Rs 6,200. The scheme is administered through the Social Register of Mauritius and payment is dependent on attendance of children over two months. For disabled children, they must have an average attendance of 75 % while the remaining must achieve 90%. All educational institutions, from pre-primary to tertiary inclusive of special needs schools are covered. (Some 8000 children are benefitting from the Scheme- Payment of Rs 773 per month). A Basic Orphan Pension is paid to some 363 children and guardian allowance to 309 persons. Also child allowance is paid beneficiaries of basic pensions who have children to look after. Some 16,168 children obtained the said benefits on a monthly basis.

152. Mauritius has already achieved 100% of population coverage, using an improved water source and 99.5% of population using an improved sanitation facility. Access to sanitation facilities is either through on-site disposal or the sewer system.

153. The water supply and access to sanitation is not differentiated in Mauritius on the basis of age group, sex, rural/urban locations nor are there any inequalities on the basis of geography. In addition, this cannot be the case as nearly 100% the population have access to potable water and sanitation facility.

154. As regards access to safe drinking water, desalination plants are being constructed to cater for drinking water for the inhabitants of Rodrigues. Two desalination plants are ready and are being commissioned for use.

17. Please clarify whether the education system is adjusted to modern teaching methods building on the freedom of expression of children. Please explain to what extent the language of instruction influences access to education, as well as completion and drop-out rates from schools. Please indicate the forms of assistance, if any, to the Creole speaking children so that they can have access to education, which has been conducted primarily in English or French. Please also provide information on the extent of private schooling in the State party and assess its impact on accessibility and affordability of education.

(a) Modern Teaching Methods and Freedom of Expression

155. The Ministry of Education and Human Resources has put in place the Tablet PC Project which contributes to children being given the possibility of expressing themselves freely through digital media. Through this platform, children will potentially be able to communicate to their educators through emails and multimedia.

156. The digitisation of classrooms project at Primary level also provides the opportunity for children in Primary schools to be taught using innovative teaching strategies where children can better express themselves freely through the use of interactive learning platforms.

157. Learner centred pedagogy is meant to personalise the curriculum delivery and is being widely used in schools even if some Educators still have difficulties to adapt the teaching to the learning needs of their pupils.

158. The Ministry of Education and Human Resource and the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE) conducts regular workshops to support Educators take the bend. During their training teachers are sensitized on the fact that students should not only listen but also be listened to. They are required to adopt a learner-based approach so that their lessons make provision for student activity. Further, the MIE is conducting a focus programme to tackle underachievement in literacy in ZEP schools.

159. Student Councils, set up in all Secondary Schools, give a voice to students and allow them to take part in the decision making process.

(b) Language of Instruction and Kreol Morisien

160. Kreol Morisien, which is also a mother tongue, has been introduced in Std I as from 2012 and has been rolled out in Std II and Std III as an optional language on the same footing as Asian Languages/Arabic. However, it is used as a medium of teaching alongside with English and French in primary schools especially. Kreol speaking children are given equal access to education as non-kreol speaking children. Books for pupils and teachers are developed by MIE. Kreol Morisien educators have been recruited and trained by MIE. Bhojpuri which is also a mother tongue for Indo-Mauritian population has been introduced in Std I in 2012 and is integrated in Hindi classes. Appropriate resources/materials have been prepared by the MGI. Kreol Morisien and Bhojpuri being two mother tongue facilitate teaching of other subjects.

161. Creole language policy in education is guided by the Education Act which stipulates that the language of the environment may be used as an option to support the teaching and learning process at the lower primary level, i.e. Year 1 to Year 3. Creole is used widely for this purpose.

(c) Private Schooling

162. In Mauritius there are two types of private schools namely the grant-aided and fee-paying private schools. In the primary subsector private schools represent 30.3% while in the secondary subsector private schools represent 61% (according to Annual Survey 2014).

163. Grant-aided private schools are regulated by the Ministry of Education. There exists a strong partnership between the public and private sectors and private schools have contributed considerably in improving access to both primary and secondary education.

164. Education is free at primary and secondary levels and transport by bus is also free. Private schools are attended by those who can afford the tuition fees.

165. The State and private schools have enough seats to cater for the whole school going age population.

18. Please provide information on patterns of child labour and clarify the measures taken to prevent and eliminate the worst forms of child labour, such as child prostitution.

166. As a rule, all inspections visits carried out by officers of the Inspection and Enforcement Section of the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment, also aim at monitoring child employment. Whenever such cases are detected during inspection visits, or reported to the Ministry, the employment of the children concerned is stopped forthwith and court action is initiated against the defaulting employer/s after appropriate investigation. Concurrently, some form of coordination is in place whereby the child labour cases identified are referred to the Child Development Unit of the Ministry of Gender

Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare for counselling purposes and psychological support as may be required.

167. With a view to combating Commercial and Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) more effectively, the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare has made it a priority to set up and maintain an ongoing training programme for public and non-public officers working with children to empower them to deal with cases of CSEC in a more professional and child friendly manner.

168. In this context, from 2011 to 2013, 95 professionals such as Family Welfare and Protection Officer, Child Welfare Officer, Police Officers, Probation Officers, Medical Social Workers, Investigators from the Ombudsperson for Children's Office (OCO) and NGOs working with children have been trained on CSEC matters by a local consultant with a view to providing better services to victims of CSEC.

(a) Sensitisation Campaign on CSEC

169. From 2011 to 2013, 1192 talks/ forums/ interactive sessions were carried out, during which 40874 students and 2716 teachers were reached by the National Children' s Council; and from 2012 to 2013, 3329 people were sensitized on dangers of juvenile prostitution and trafficking and also on the sanctions for perpetrators of trafficking in primary, secondary schools and in Community Centres and Social Welfare Centres by Officers of the CDU.

Campaigns carried out by National Children Council (NCC)

	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)			*Commercial and sexual exploitation of children (CSEC)*			*Child protection issues (child sexual abuse & teenage pregnancy)*		
Year	*Talks Interactive sessions*	*Students Reached*	*Teachers reached*	*Talks Forum discussions*	*Students reached*	*Teachers reached*	*Interactive sessions*	*Students reached*	*Teachers reached*
2011	224	5644	220	103	3678	271	69	2563	–
2012	308	6644	420	108	4678	321	79	4268	–
2013	109	5108	495	113	5173	521	79	3118	468
Total	**641**	**17396**	**1135**	**324**	**13529**	**1113**	**227**	**9949**	**468**

(b) "Écoles des Parents"

170. The "Écoles des Parents" project was launched on 05 October 2010 and from 2011 to 2013, 40, batches of "Écoles Des Parents" have been set up whereby 1300 parents have been reached. The batches of "Écoles Des Parents" are conducted in the evening for at most thirty parents who follow 16 sessions over a period of two months, twice per week, as from 18.30 hrs to 20.30 hrs.

(c) School Child Protection Clubs

171. The School Child Protection Club launched is a multi-staged holistic project which aims at initiating home grown protection clubs for children by children at the level of the school itself. The School Child Protection Club is based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and aims at the development of communication strategies and information, education and communication campaigns for four different but interlinked target groups operating at the school community level.

172. A network of School Child Protection Clubs has also been devised and is being implemented to sensitise children on protection issues (inclusive of the dangers of CSEC and trafficking).

173. From 2012 to 2013, 261 (170 primary and 91 secondary) School Child Protection Clubs have already been set up whereby 22,154 children have been sensitized on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

(d) Community Child Watch Committees

174. 32 Community Child Watch Committees allow for proximity service including surveillance and reporting of cases of children exposed to any form of violence (inclusive of CSEC).

(e) District child Protection Committees

175. 9 District Child Protection Committees (DCPCs) help in monitoring Child Protection issues (child violence cases, child prostitution amongst others…) at the district level.

(f) Drop-in Centre

176. A Drop-in Centre set up since December 2003 caters for the rehabilitative needs of juvenile involved in prostitution. The Drop-in Centre is specifically designed to cater and offer support services to all those who are victims and potential victims and who are willing to come out of the scourge of trafficking including child prostitution.

177. The Drop-in Centre works in close collaboration with other stakeholders (Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, Ministry Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institution, Police, Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment).

178. In line with recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child at its 41st Session held in January 2006 to strengthen policies and programmes for the prevention, recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration of children victims of Commercial and Sexual Exploitation, Government took the commitment to set up a Residential Care/ Drop-in Centre for Children Victims of Commercial and Sexual Exploitation (CSEC) at Grand River North West (GRNW). The building was inaugurated on 10 September 2014.

(g) Hotline

179. A Hotline/Helpline 113 with respect to recording and reporting of cases abuse including CSEC/Child trafficking is available at the level of the Child Development Unit.

(h) Brigade pour la Protection des Mineurs

180. The Brigade pour la Protection des Mineurs also assists with the identification of victims of CSEC/Child trafficking, to carry out inspections in places such as game houses, guest houses, hotels, discotheques and to investigate in suspected/alleged cases of CSEC.

(i) Working Together Committee

181. The main objective of this High Powered Committee is to look into avenues of collaboration between all parties concerned to ensure rapid intervention in cases involving children. It is also a forum whereby the roles and responsibilities of each party would be established with a view to give effect to collective action in dealing with such cases.

182. As at date, 8 stakeholders namely Prime Minister's Office (Civil Status Division), Attorney General's Office, Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, National Children's Council, Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands, Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment, Ministry of Youth and Sports have signed their respective Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU from the remaining three stakeholders namely the Police Department, Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions and Ministry of Tourism and Leisure are still being considered.

183. The National High Level Steering Committee named "Working together for Child Protection" comprises 16 stakeholders which also assist in cases of CSEC/Child trafficking.

19. Please also provide information on the measures taken to address the situation of children in street situations.

184. According to Amnesty International there are two categories of street children, namely children on the street and children of the street. In Mauritius, there are children on the street, that is, children who spend most of their times on the street and go back to their families at the end of the day. There are no reported cases of children of the street as such since no child remains 24 hours on the street.

185. It is the policy of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare (MGECDFW) to intervene whenever cases of vulnerable children are reported. Support services are provided to these children who are followed by the Child Protection Team at the level of their families. In cases where a child is deemed to be in immediate danger and is exposed to harm, arrangements are made through the issue of an Emergency Protection Order to have the child accommodated in a "place of safety".

186. The MGECDFW has a formalized collaboration with the NGO, SAFIRE to work with children in street situations. SAFIRE participate in case conferences on a case to case basis when it refers a child to the CDU.

187. Sensitization campaigns are being carried out at the level of "Écoles des Parents" and "School Child Protection Clubs" by the National Children's Council (NCC). Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) including SAFIRE participate in the Training Programmes held by the Ministry. Networking is also done through the Community Child Watch Committee whereby children at risk are referred to the CDU for psychological counselling and placement.

188. Under the Special Collaborative Programme for Children and Women in Distress managed by the MGECDFW, SAFIRE has benefitted funds for the purchase of a 15 Seated Van in order to facilitate the transportation of 20 street Children from different parts of the island to enable them to attend the educational farm training offered by SAFIRE on a daily basis. The van would be an essential component for the better implementation of the project. The rehabilitation of the 20 street children is ongoing. A plot of land to the extent of 1.5 Acres situated at Verdun was donated by Espitalier-Noel Limited (ENL Ltd) for implementation of an agricultural project by the 20 street children which is being renewed annually. The project has been completed and all relevant reports have been duly submitted.

20. Please clarify what is the currently applicable minimum age of criminal responsibility and indicate the progress in developing a specialized juvenile justice system, in particular whether the special courts with judges for children have been established, with special investigators trained for this purpose. Please also provide information on treatment of children when arrested or detained, and clarify the reports of the lack of information to children on their rights when deprived of liberty, and of their automatic hand-cuffing. Moreover, please explain whether children who are arrested

or detained are held separate from adults, as required under the Juvenile Offenders Act (Section 8).

189. There is no minimum age of criminal responsibility and that this is at the discretion of the Director of Public Prosecution to decide as to whether or not to prosecute. However, Section 44 of the Criminal Code Act 1838 stipulates that an accused person under the age of 14 who acted without discernment will be acquitted but shall according to the circumstances of his case, be handed over to his relations or be placed for a number of years as the sentence for which the minor was convicted, but shall not exceed the period at which the minor will have reached the age of 18.

190. Further, according to Section 45 of the Criminal Code Act 1838, where the minor acted with discernment he/she will be condemned to imprisonment in a reformatory for a specific time as may be determined in the judgment.

191. As regards child as an accused party or suspect, Police handle such case with due care and attention. They are informed of their rights in the presence of parents or guardian. No statement is recorded from in the absence of parents/guardian. However, if detention of the minor is necessary, he or she will be detained in special detention centres, such as the Petite Rivière Juvenile Detention Centre. No child accused is detained together with adult person.

192. Normally child detainees are escorted to Court or other place by Police Officers in civilian dress and are not handcuffed. The handcuffing of child detainee is resorted in exceptional circumstances, for example for his or her own safety, demonstrating extreme violent behaviours, etc.

193. There are no specialised Courts for children, dealing with child offenders. A Family Court Bill is currently under preparation, which has as object, inter alia, to establish a Family Court as a Division of the Supreme Court, to provide for conciliation in respect of, and secure the speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs and counselling services to be made available to parties in proceedings before the Family Court. The views of the Judiciary have been sought on the draft Family Court Bill.

194. The issue of minimum age of criminal responsibility is being addressed in the draft Children's Bill.

195. A draft Juvenile Justice Bill is currently under preparation. However, its progress has been halted pending certain policy decisions which need to be taken at the level of several stakeholders.

196. At present, there is no special court with judges for children.

197. Expert advice has been sought from UNODC for the development of a juvenile justice system. Upon admission in a juvenile detention centre, inmates' rights and privileges are read and explained to them. Provision has also been made to keep children separate from adult detainees, juveniles are incarcerated at the Correctional Youth Centre and Rehabilitation Youth Centre.

198. The Juvenile Offenders' Act provides the following definition:

- "Juvenile" means a person under the age of 18;
- "Young person" means a person who has attained the age of 14 and is under the age of 18.

Part II

In this section the Committee invites the State party to briefly (three page maximum) update the information presented in its report with regard to:

(a) New bills or laws, and their respective regulations

(i) *Children's bill*

199. The draft Children's Bill is at the stage of finalization. Few policy decisions, including the issue of prohibition of corporal punishment of children, have recently been taken. The draft Children's Bill is expected to incorporate the spirit of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and include all the main principles and obligations under the Convention. However, with regard to Articles 37 and 40 of the Convention, the issues relating to juvenile justice shall be dealt with more comprehensively in the draft Juvenile Justice Bill.

(ii) *Draft adoption bill*

200. The draft Adoption Bill, which is currently under preparation, is yet to be finalized because there are few important policy issues, which need to be creased out at the level of the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions.

(iii) *Draft juvenile justice bill*

201. A draft Juvenile Justice Bill is currently under preparation. Several stakeholders are being consulted regarding policy decisions related to the progress of the Bill.

(iv) *Family court bill*

202. Family Court Bill is currently under preparation, which has as object, inter alia, to establish a Family Court as a Division of the Supreme Court, to provide for conciliation in respect of, and secure the speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs and counselling services to be made available to parties in proceedings before the Family Court. The views of the Judiciary have been sought on the draft Family Court Bill.

(b) New institutions (and their mandates) or institutional reforms

(c) Recently introduced policies, programmes and action plans and their scope and financing

203. In October 2012, the Government of Mauritius launched the National Human Rights Action Plan for the period 2012–2020. This is a landmark in the human rights landscape of Mauritius. The Action Plan embodies all the commitments taken by the Government of Mauritius to improve the human rights situation in line with international best practices. It aims at inculcating a human rights culture among all sections of the population.

204. A Human Rights Monitoring Committee has equally been established comprising representatives of relevant Ministries and departments, National Human Rights Institutions as well as NGOs to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the National Human Rights Action Plan.

205. The Human Rights Action Plan advocates a number of measures, amongst which:

(i) The strengthening of international cooperation on human rights through ratification of human rights instruments and domestication of human rights treaties;

(ii) A greater realisation of economic, social and cultural rights;

(iii) The strengthening of women's rights in the context of equal opportunities;

(iv) A better protection and safeguarding of the rights of vulnerable persons including children, older persons, persons with disabilities and persons living in poverty as well as securing the right to sustainable development;

(v) A database of Human Rights Indicators with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme and the University of Mauritius is in the process of being finalised in order to monitor progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Action Plan.

206. Following the recommendation of the United Nations Special Rapporteur in May 2011, a National Child Protection Strategy and Action Plan is being finalised with the assistance of the European Union.

(d) Recent ratifications of human rights instruments

207. As far as the rights of the disabled are concerned, Mauritius ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in January 2010.

(i) Mauritius ratified the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography on 14 June 2011; and

(ii) Signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure on 13 August 2012.

Part III

Data, statistics and other information, if available

1. Please provide statistical data disaggregated by gender, age, geographic location and socio-economic background on the number and percentage of children under 18 living in Mauritius, including the number of children living in foster care. Please explain whether statistical data have been collected in a coordinated manner and clarify if updated statistics have been available and published through government websites.

Resident population and resident population in private households by geographical district, 0–18 years of age and sex

Country, Island, Geographical District, and Age	*Resident population*			*Resident population in private households*		
	Both sexes	*Male*	*Female*	*Both sexes*	*Male*	*Female*
Republic of Mauritius						
All ages	1,236,817	610,848	625,969	1,210,328	595,496	614,832
0–4	73,078	36,702	36,376	72,888	36,595	36,293
5–9	89,015	44,947	44,068	88,888	44,885	44,003
10–14	93,639	47,302	46,337	93,434	47,220	46,214
15–18	80,380	40,218	40,162	80,123	40,091	40,032
0–18 years	672,224	338,338	333,886	670,666	337,582	333,084

Source: 2011 Housing & Population Census.

208. The Foster Care System provides the children with an alternative family environment, which fosters their physical, emotional and social environment. A monthly allowance of Rs 1,500 is being paid to the foster parents to cater for the needs of the children placed with them and some 39 children have been placed in 38 foster care families from 2011 to 2013.

2. Please provide statistical data on the extent of non-payment of child maintenance and sanctions thereof for the years 2011–2013.

209. For years 2011 to 2013 there have been 343 cases of non-payment of child maintenance. Sanctions for the above offence are fines and undertakings that in future there will be compliance as regards the payment of child maintenance.

3. Please provide information, disaggregated by gender, age, geographic location and socio-economic background, on the number of children:

(a) Separated from their parents;

(b) Placed with foster families;

(c) Placed in institutions, including the Rehabilitation Youth Centres;

(d) Adopted through national and inter-country adoptions;

(e) Whose parents are incarcerated;

(f) In street situations.

(a) Separated from their parents

No. of victims placed in Alternative Care (Shelter & Institutions), Island of Mauritius, 2011–2013

Year	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*
Number of victims	141	141	170

(b) Foster Care

210. 39 children are placed in 38 foster care families from 2011 to 2013.

(c) Placed in Institutions, including the Rehabilitation Youth Centres

No. of victims placed in Alternative Care (Shelter & Institutions), Mauritius

Year	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*
Number of victims	141	141	170

Children beyond control/perpetrators placed in rehabilitative institutions

211. There are currently 7 boys and 15 girls placed in Probation Hostel for boys and Probation Home for girls, respectively.

212. As regards the Rehabilitation Youth Centre Population (RYC), statistical data is as follows:

	Unconvicted	*Convicted*	***Total***
RYC Boys	12	10	**22**

	Unconvicted	*Convicted*	***Total***
RYC Girls	04	20	**24**

(d) Adopted through National and Inter-country adoptions

No. of children adopted through inter-country adoptions by sex, 2011–2013

Year	*Male*	*Female*	*Both sexes*	*Urban*	*Rural*	*Both sexes*
2011	3	11	14	8	6	14
2012	5	10	15	6	9	15
2013	3	5	8	3	5	8

(e) Whose parents are incarcerated

213. Not available.

(f) In street situations

214. Refer to question 19, part I.

4. Please specify the number of children with disabilities, up to the age of 18, disaggregated by gender, age, geographic location, socio-economic background and type of disability for the years 2011–2013:

(a) Living with their families;

(b) Living in institutions;

(c) Placed in foster care;

(d) Attending regular schools;

(e) Attending special schools;

(f) Not attending school;

(g) Subject to violence, in schools, institutions and domestic settings.

(a) Living with their families

215. There are currently 5,275 children with disabilities living within their family environment, comprising 2,995 boys and 2,380 girls.

(b) Living in institutions

216. Not available.

(c) Children with disability in Foster Care

217. From 2011 to 2013, no placement regarding children with disabilities has been made in foster care.

(d) Attending regular schools;

No. of children with disabilities attending schools, 2010–2013

Children with disabilities attending:	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*
Regular schools	450	475	495	501
Special schools	1,661	1,853	1,862	2,008
Day care centres	700	850	1,012	1,166

(e) Attending special schools;

Children with disabilities attending special schools

Type of Disability	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*
Autism	–	117	172
Deafness and Hearing Impairment	146	102	181
Down's Syndrome	–	164	176
Learning Disabilities/Dyslexia	326	106	86
Emotional Disturbance	–	90	90
Epilepsy	–	128	124
Intellectual Impairment	518	547	541
Physical Disability	128	207	252
Severe and Multiple Disabilities	462	166	120
Visual Impairment	81	109	125
Other	42	126	141
Total	**1,703**	**1862**	**2,008**

(f) Not attending schools

Disabled resident population 2–17 years of age, sex and not attending school

Country, Island and Age (in years)	*Republic of Mauritius*			*Island of Mauritius*			*Island of Rodrigues*		
	Total	*Male*	*Female*	***Total***	*Male*	*Female*	***Total***	*Male*	*Female*
<18	**314**	177	137	**300**	171	129	**14**	7	12
2–4	**11**	6	5	**10**	6	4	**1**	–	1
5–9	**75**	47	28	**71**	44	27	**4**	3	1
10–14	**129**	73	56	**125**	71	54	**4**	2	2
15–17	**99**	51	48	**94**	50	44	**5**	2	8

(g) Subject to violence in schools, institutions and domestic settings

218. CDU to provide information.

5. Please provide statistical data on:

(a) The number of children who have been victims of ill-treatment and abuse and exploitation, including victims of trafficking, as well as number of complaints, investigations and prosecutions carried out in this regard;

(b) The number of children who have been victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, including victims of trafficking, as well as number of complaints, investigations and prosecutions carried out in this regard;

(c) The number of working children disaggregated by gender, age, geographic location and socio-economic background.

(a) The number of children who have been victims of ill-treatment and abuse and exploitation, including victims of trafficking, as well as number of complaints, investigations and prosecutions carried out in this regard

No. of children victims of ill-treatment and abuse

Nature of Problem	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	***Total***
Total physical abuse	641	545	667	**1,853**
Total neglect abuse	942	782	786	**2,510**
Commercial sexual exploitation (including child prostitution)	2	5	7	**14**
Total sexual abuse (including incest)	302	319	392	**1,013**
Child Trafficking	12	7	1	**20**
Total	**1,899**	**1,658**	**1,853**	**5,410**

(b) The number of children who have been victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, including victims of trafficking, as well as number of complaints, investigations and prosecutions carried out in this regard

	2011			*2012*			*2013*			*January to June 2014*		
Nature of problem	*Male*	*Female*	*Both Sexes*	*Male*	*Female*	*Both Sex*	*Male*	*Female*	*Both Sex*	*Male*	*Female*	*Both Sexes*
Commercial sexual exploitation (incl. child prostitution)	–	2	2	0	5	5	0	7	7	0	3	3
Sexual abuse (incl. incest):	42	260	302	56	263	319	62	330	392	41	206	247
Child trafficking	6	6	12	3	4	7	0	1	1	0	1	1

(c) The number of working children disaggregated by gender, age, geographic location and socio-economic background

No. of children under 16 years involved in labour

Year	*Enterprise visited*	*Enterprise employing children*	*Children employed*	
			Male	*Female*

June 10–May 11	435	–	–	–
June 10–May 12	1109	–	–	–
June 12–May 13	1272	2	3	–

Number of inspection visits effected and the number of new cases[1] detected/reported in connection with child[2] employment, Year 2013

		Number of cases					
Region	*No. of inspections*	*Cases brought forward from year 2012*	*New cases detected reported*	*Total*	*No. of cases rejected*	*No. of cases referred to Prosecution Unit*	*No. of cases carried over*
Mauritius	1,261	0	3	3	0	3	0

Source: Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations & Employment.

[1] One case = 1 child.

[2] Child: A person under the age of 16.

Number of cases prosecuted, convictions and penal sanctions applied in connection with child employment, Year 2013

	Number of cases prosecuted						
Region	*Cases brought forward from year 2012*	*New cases*	*Total*	*No. of cases convicted*	*Penal sanction Fines + Costs (Rs)*	*No. of cases dismissed*	*No. of cases carried over*
Mauritius	0	3	3	3	N/A	0	0

6. Please provide also statistical data on persons investigated, charged, convicted and punished for sexual exploitation of children.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children for year 2012 to August 2014 for island of Mauritius

Sno.	*Offence*	*No. of cases reported*	*No. of cases prosecuted*	*No. Of cases Struck Out*	*No. Of Cases under Enquiry*	*No. Of Persons Investigated Charged*
			Year 2012			
1	Causing Child to be Sexually abused	1	1	–	–	2
2	Child Trafficking	2	1	–	–	7
3	Brothel Keeping	1	1	–	–	1
4	Causing a Child to be engaged in prostitution	–	–	–	–	–
	Total	**4**	**3**	**–**	**–**	**10**
			Year 2013			
1	Causing Child to be Sexually abused	1	–	–	1	2
2	Child Trafficking	3	2	–	1	9
3	Brothel Keeping	1	1	–		4
4	Sexual Exploitation	1	–	–	1	2

Sno.	*Offence*	*No. of cases reported*	*No. of cases prosecuted*	*No. Of cases Struck Out*	*No. Of Cases under Enquiry*	*No. Of Persons Investigated Charged*
	of Minor					
	Total	**6**	**3**	**–**	**3**	**17**
			Year 2014 (January to August)			
1	Inciting Child to be sexually abused	1	–	–	1	1
2	Child Trafficking	4	–	–	4	16
3	Brothel Keeping	–	–	–	–	–
4	Sexual Exploitation of Minor	–	–	–	–	–
5	Debauching Youth	1	–	–	1	2
	Total	**6**	**–**	**–**	**6**	**19**

7. In addition, the State Party may list areas affecting children that it considers to be of priority with regard to the implementation of the Convention.

219. All areas affecting children have already been considered above.